

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 IO-06 EUR-08 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4302

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0909

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA -- ILHR INTEREST IN POLITICAL
PRISONERS

REF: STATE 108620

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EMBASSY STILL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE CONCLUSIVELY TO CONFIRM OR DENY REPORTS OF DIALLO TELLI'S DEATH (REFTEL). WE HAVE HEARD NO ADDITIONAL CONFIRMATION OF TESTIMONY BY A LEBANESE PRISONER RELEASED IN DECEMBER (AND WHO REPORTED TO ILHR) THAT TELLI PERISHED IN FEB-MAR 1977. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS NOTHING BEYOND THIS. TELLI'S FAMILY APPARENTLY HAS NOT GIVEN UP TENUOUS HOPE THAT HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE, BASED ON RUMORS PASSED ON BY FRIENDS OF PRISON GUARDS. FAIRLY RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCE WITH PERIODIC ACCESS TO CAMP BOIRO HAS NOT SEEN TELLI OR HEARD OF HIS WHEREABOUTS FOR ABOUT A YEAR. BY CONTRAST, SOURCE CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT TWO PROMINENT MINISTERS ARRESTED WITH TELLI -- ALPHA OUMAR BARRY AND ALIOUNE DRAHE -- WERE SIGHTED IN CAP BOIRO THIS MONTH AND ARE NOT DOING BADLY.

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2. GIVEN THIS INCONCLUSIVE PICTURE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT, IF QUERIED, SIMPLY STATE THE TRUTH -- THAT WE ARE AWARE OF SEVERAL REPORTS OF TELLI'S DEATH LAST YEAR BUT THAT WE HAVE NO DEFINITIVE INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THEM.

3. EMBASSY HAS REASON TO THINK THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED PRISONERS

AMNESTIED IN LATE NOVEMBER-MID DECEMBER 1977 (AND NOW LISTED IN JOURNAL OFFICIAL WHICH APPEARED IN APRIL 1978, POUCHED TO AF/W) WERE IN PART "POLITICAL", IN THAT MANY WERE ACCUSED OF "ECONOMIC CRIMES" AND AUTO-ACCIDENT MANSLAUGHTER, FORMERLY CATEGORIZED HERE AS "ANTI-STATE". WE HAVE HAD TROUBLE RELATING THESE LISTS TO "POLITICAL" PRISONERS LISTED BY ILHR AND KNOWN TO HAVE ALSO BEEN RELEASED AT THAT TIME; IT IS THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT LATTER ARE SEPARATE AND IN ADDITION TO JOURNAL OFFICIEL LISTS.

4. GOG SOURCES CONTINUE TO EXPECT THAT PRESIDENT TOURE WILL SOON AMNESTY ANOTHER GROUP OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH MAY 14 PARTY ANNIVERSARY.
CROSBY

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